

Your Community. Your Environment.
Your Choice.



Help keep Chula Vista clean.



Environment-Friendly Home Improvement & Maintenance



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Public Works Operations
1800 Maxwell Road, Chula Vista, CA 91911

www.chulavistaca.gov/clean

Home improvement and maintenance may be harmful to our environment!

If home improvement materials are washed down the street and into a storm drain, they not only stain the gutters and streets, but also add many harmful chemicals and sediments to our water bodies. Additionally, many building materials can dry and harden, clogging storm drainpipes.

Too much sediment or dirt in our waterways can choke aquatic life by creating murky conditions; it also fills in and disables natural drainage areas.

Yard clippings blown or swept into a storm drain can damage aquatic environments by adding too much vegetation to the water, which then removes oxygen and suffocates other aquatic life.

Make better choices... with the environment in mind.

Disposal of Paint and Building Materials

Never rinse paint brushes out in the street or in any area that might flow to the street or into a storm drain. If you use a water-based paint, wash all paintbrushes, pans, sprayers and other equipment in a sink connected to the sewer. Dispose clean, water-based paint cans in the trash. Oil based paints and solvents can only be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection site.

If you spill liquid building materials or other hazardous materials, use towels, absorbents or kitty litter immediately to prevent the spill from flowing into the street. If you use kitty litter, be sure to sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash or take it to a hazardous waste facility.

Materials and equipment that require water with application and cleaning such as grout, gypsum compound, dry wall mud, plaster, stucco, or concrete cannot be rinsed down a street or into a storm drain. Use a mop and bucket to clean these areas. Allow left-over materials to dry completely, then dispose of them in the trash.

Sediment/Loose Dirt

You can help prevent sediment or loose dirt from entering the stormwater drainage system by planting vegetation on slopes, and by properly maintaining your landscaped areas. Roots from plants bind loose soil and prevent erosion. If loose dirt is left on sidewalks or streets after a project, dispose of it in your yard. For large projects, contact a hauling company to remove the dirt for you.

Cleaning Sidewalks, Driveways and Other Surfaces

If you must prepare your home exterior for painting, or if you need to clean your sidewalks and driveways by pressure washing, companies that specialize in recovering wash water before it enters storm drains are available for hire. Make sure to clean up fluid spills with a rag, kitty litter or other absorbents, rather than flushing the spill down the street and into the stormwater drainage system.

Remember, it is illegal to allow building materials, or wash water from the cleaning of building materials, to enter the stormwater drainage system.